Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

Things have slowed down on Capitol Hill just a bit. However, there are some notable developments you need to know about.

First, the House passed H.R. 45, which fully repealed the President’s nationalized health care plan called ObamaCare. This news isn’t surprising considering that Republicans control the House. There was a very telling sign though, and a sign that we are all hoping will carry over into the Senate: two Democrats, Congressman Matheson and Congressman McIntyre, both voted for the full repeal.

Second, I attended the House, continued on page 3

TSC Releases 2013 Legislative Survey Results

Every year The Seniors Coalition surveys its members on the critical issues of the day. This year’s survey, while not scientific, does represent an enormous sample of America’s seniors. And, once again, it reaffirms that the Coalition’s policy goals are supported by an overwhelming number of TSC members.

The results of this year’s survey were released to members of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, continued on page 3

Rep. Engel Reintroduces CoLA Bill

Thanks in part to encouragement from The Seniors Coalition, Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) has reintroduced his Guaranteed 3% CoLA for Seniors Act in the 113th Congress.

The measure will solve the problem of seniors being cheated out of a fair and reasonable cost-of-living-increase each year. It was introduced in the 112th Congress but was not brought up for a vote.

“This is a crucial piece of legislation that we believe must be passed in order to protect America’s seniors,” says TSC President and CEO Dr. Joseph Bridges. “Senior citizens are being crushed by inflation and the federal government..."
Rep. Engel Reintroduces CoLA Bill

has tried to short-change them through a ridiculous system for computing CoLAs. It’s a testament to the members of The Seniors Coalition that they were able to convince Congressman Engel to take another shot at passing this measure.”

TSC has been collecting petitions on the issue of CoLA reform for years. The effort is even part of Bridges’ “Million Petition Challenge.” So far TSC supporters have signed more than 130,000 petitions.

Engel’s bill, numbered H.R. 1585, was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee as well as the Committee on Education and the Workforce for consideration.

“CoLA reform is a top issue for our members, so we are going to continue to push this bill very, very hard,” explains Bridges. “The government sold Social Security as a retirement savings program, and every good investment needs to keep up with inflation,” he says. “This bill will make sure that the politicians can’t cancel CoLAs or minimize the very real threat inflation poses to seniors’ quality of life.

To sign the CoLA petition, please visit www.senior.org.
Results of the Seniors Coalition’s 2013 Legislative Survey

1) Should The Seniors Coalition keep fighting to restore your prior years’ CoLAs and guarantee your CoLA in 2013?
   - 94.0% Yes, keep fighting to restore my CoLA.
   - 1.0% No, I do not need my CoLA.
   - 5.0% Undecided / No Answer

2) Should The Seniors Coalition continue to oppose “means testing” of Social Security benefits?
   - 98.0% Yes, Social Security is not a welfare program.
   - 0.0% No, means testing does not concern me.
   - 2.0% Undecided / No Answer

3) Should The Seniors Coalition pressure the U.S. Congress to pass a lock box law to protect Social Security in 2013, allowing it to be sent to the President for his signature?
   - 97.0% Yes, this law is needed to protect Social Security.
   - 0.0% No, Social Security does not need this protection.
   - 3.0% Undecided / No Answer

4) Should The Seniors Coalition keep fighting for immediate, total, and permanent repeal of the “Death Tax”?
   - 98.0% Yes, the Estate Tax should be permanently repealed.
   - 0.0% No, the Estate Tax does not concern me.
   - 2.0% Undecided / No Answer

5) Should The Seniors Coalition fight for total repeal of the 1993 Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits?
   - 97.0% Yes, taxes on Social Security benefits should be totally repealed.
   - 0.0% No, taxes on Social Security benefits do not concern me.
   - 3.0% Undecided / No Answer

6) Should The Seniors Coalition fight for stronger laws to protect your privacy, and to safeguard the confidential relationship between you and your doctor?
   - 98.0% Yes, the government should enforce my right to keep my personal medical records private.
   - 0.0% No, the privacy of medical records is an issue that does not concern me.
   - 2.0% Undecided / No Answer

7) Do you agree with The Seniors Coalition that the new prescription-drug benefit was an important addition to Medicare, and that it is improving the quality of health care available to senior citizens?
   - 95.0% Yes, the Medicare “Part D” prescription benefit is useful or helpful to me.
   - 3.0% No, I do not find the Medicare prescription-drug benefit is useful or helpful to me.
   - 2.0% Undecided / No Answer

8) Should The Seniors Coalition keep fighting for total repeal of Obama’s Federal Health Control Law?
   - 99.0% Yes, keep fighting to repeal “Obamacare” and protect my access to quality health care.
   - 0.0% No, having the government in control of America’s health care system does not concern me.
   - 1.0% Undecided / No Answer

9) Should The Seniors Coalition continue to build on its hard-earned reputation as America’s best advocacy alternative to AARP?
   - 93.0% Yes, The Seniors Coalition is a better advocate for me than AARP.
   - 2.0% No, I believe AARP speaks best for senior citizens.
   - 5.0% Undecided / No Answer

Legislative Report from Sean Ferritor

Ways and Means Subcommittee hearing on bi-partisan approaches to try and fix the way Medicare is currently run. Congressman Kevin Brady chaired the event and both sides of the aisle seemed optimistic that there can be a solution to this major problem. With eight to ten thousand Americans becoming eligible for Medicare every day, it is estimated that Medicare will be broke in ten years.

Finally, I am happy to report that your voices are being heard through our 2013 Legislative Survey. The results of this important program have been reported to every congressional office, and I even personally delivered them to the participants of a regular off-the-record meeting of the most prominent conservative organizations in the country.

That’s all for this month. If you have any questions or comments about our legislative or grassroots lobbying programs, please feel free to give me a call at 202-261-3594.
Remember The Seniors Coalition in Your Estate Planning

If you would like to recognize The Seniors Coalition in your will and help us to continue fighting for the principles and ideals you hold dear, feel free to use the following language. Please consult with your attorney or financial advisor for professional advice.

Cash Bequest to The Seniors Coalition

A cash bequest provides The Seniors Coalition with a specified sum of money from a donor’s estate.

“I give _______ Dollars ($_______) to The Seniors Coalition, a Virginia non-profit corporation, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036 to further the objectives and purposes of The Seniors Coalition.”

Residuary Bequest to The Seniors Coalition

A residuary bequest is made from the residue, or what remains in a donor’s estate after specific and cash bequests, taxes, settlement costs and debts are satisfied. This type of bequest is sensitive to changes in the size of the estate over time.

“I give the residue (or _______ percent of the residue) of my estate to The Seniors Coalition, a Virginia non-profit corporation, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036, to further the objectives and purposes of The Seniors Coalition.”

Tell Us Why TSC Is Important to You

Many members of The Seniors Coalition have been with us for years. We’d like to hear your stories about why you joined TSC and what TSC means to you. Please send your comments, and a picture of yourself if you have one to spare, to:

Sean Ferritor
The Seniors Coalition
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036
Or by email to: tsc@senior.org
Or call Sean at 202-261-3594

For more information, visit our website at: www.senior.org

Help The Seniors Coalition Protect You and Your Rights!

The Seniors Coalition depends exclusively on voluntary membership dues and contributions from the general public to represent America’s senior citizens in Washington. If you would like to help our efforts, then please clip and return this coupon with any contribution you can afford.

☐ YES! I would like to help The Seniors Coalition keep fighting to protect senior citizens. Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ $10  ☐ $15  ☐ $25  ☐ $50
☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ Other $________

Name:__________________________
Address:________________________

Please make your check payable to “TSC”.

Because we lobby Congress on your behalf, contributions are not tax-deductible.

Please send your contribution along with this form to:
The Seniors Coalition • 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200 • Washington, D.C. 20036